



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Instruction Memorandum **No. CA-2004-046**

Expires: 09/30/05

To: District Manager, CDD, and All Field Office Managers
(*Attention – District/Regional and Field Office FMO's*)

From: State Director

Subject: Type III Engine Staffing

This Instruction Memorandum is in reference to IM No. CA-2004-024, which changes the target level of fire training and currency qualifications for operational fire suppression and prescribed fire positions within California's Fire Management Program. The additional California training required for an Engine Operator will be waived. These standards are waived due to the lack of funding, hiring, training, and retention issues of our fire personnel. The waiver will be in effect for the duration of this fire season.

California's Type III Engine staffing and qualification standards were set higher than the Bureau standard due to complexities of wildland/urban interface fires and the need for seven day staffing. The California standard includes the completion of the California Engine Academy. The Bureau minimum standard outlined in the Standards for Fire Operations 2004 (Chapter 15) and the NWCG 310-1 will be adhered to.

We will continue to operate our engines safely and under the supervision of a qualified Module Leader on a five day effective schedule using the Bureau minimum standard. Where California Standards can be met, Engine Modules will continue to run for seven days per week. This change does not relieve Fire Management from the responsibility for safe, well trained and qualified personnel operating and supervising our fire equipment.

The State Fire Training and Qualifications Committee will meet in the fall of 2004 to review the California BLM standard, BLM Red Book standard and the 310-1 standards for engine operations. We will continue to strive to meet the training needs and staffing levels to bring all engines to seven day staffing. Training slots for Engine Operators will be prioritized at the California Engine Academy.

If you have any questions, please contact Doug Waggoner, State Fire Operations Specialist, at 916-978-4437 or Gary Cardoza, State Fire Equipment Specialist, at 916-978-4434.

Signed by:
James Wesley Abbott
Associate State Director

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Records Management